GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3151
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Poaching of Turtles
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi;Suman Shri Balka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been increasing cases of turtle poaching in the country during the last several years;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) has launched a specific operation on turtles, code named "Operation Save Kurma"; and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of turtles recovered and arrests made under the operation, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a)As informed by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, the data provided by the State enforcement agencies to Bureau does not indicate such trend.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has coordinated a species specific operation code named "Operation Save Kurma" to invite attention of all the enforcement agencies throughout the country toward poaching and illegal trade in turtle and tortoises.

State-wise details of turtles recovered and arrests made as per the details provided to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau by the State authorities, is as under:

SNo Name of State No. of Turtles recovered No. of Arrests made
1 Haryana 4 1
2 Karnataka 281 3
3 Maharashtra 19 4
4 Rajasthan 3 1
5 Uttar Pradesh 8767 13
6 West Bengal 6838 33
TOTAL 15912
55

***